



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 06 November 2007

Current Nationwide



[For info click here](#)

- The *Washington Post* reports that the Department of Homeland Security eased rules requiring tens of thousands of U.S. chemical plants to protect their stockpiles from terrorists by reducing the number of targeted chemicals to about 300 and raising the reporting threshold of many chemicals of highest security concern. (See items [4](#))
- The *Associated Press* reports that Cargill Inc. recalled more than 1 million pounds of ground beef after a U.S. Department of Agriculture test found that it may be contaminated with E. coli bacteria. The ground beef was produced between October 8 and October 11 and distributed to retailers across the country, including Giant, Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Wegmans and Weis. (See item [16](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#), [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical**: ELEVATED, **Cyber**: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *November 5, The Associated Press* – (Northeast) **Power returns in New England after Noel**. Power was being restored Monday to several thousand coastal residents from Massachusetts to Maine who lost electricity when the remnants of Hurricane Noel blew through the region over the weekend. The storm struck New England with just a glancing blow Saturday, bringing down tree limbs and knocking out power to 80,000 homes. State officials reported no serious injuries or deaths. By Monday morning, utility officials said fewer than 5,000 residents were without power in Massachusetts, and

about 700 were without power in eastern Maine. Utilities were confident that most of the outages would be resolved by the end of the day.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071105/ap_on_re_us/tropical_weather;_ylt=ApBZOJITkAMMOU_O6CyViPlG2ocA

2. *November 5, Bloomberg* – (International) **Oil falls more than \$2 in New York as Turkey-Iraq tensions ease.** Crude oil fell more than \$2 a barrel in New York after Kurdish fighters freed eight Turkish soldiers, reducing the likelihood Turkey will attack the bases in the north of Iraq, holder of the world's third-biggest crude reserves. Oil has climbed 19 percent since October 8 when Kurdish militants killed 13 Turkish soldiers near the Iraqi border. Stocks fell on concern that credit-market turmoil in the U.S. will curb economic growth in the world's largest energy consumer.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aDEtx13ATEjw&refer=energy>

3. *November 2, Platts* – (Wisconsin) **Weston pile grows due to lightning-forced outage.** Though preferring not to discuss exact levels, a Wisconsin Public Service official said Thursday that a lightning-caused outage at its 311-MW Weston No. 3 unit, which began October 6 and now threatens to stretch into early next year, will have the effect of pushing the coal stockpile “about as high as it can go.” Weston No. 3, as well as Weston No. 4, located at Wausau, Wisconsin, which will be first-fired late this year or early next year, burn strictly Powder River Basin coal. Weston No. 3 burns some 5,500 short tons each day, so the outage affects some half million short tons of coal.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Coal/News/6563663.xml?sub=Coal&p=Coal/News&?undefined&undefined>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

4. *November 3, The Washington Post* – (National) **DHS relaxes chemical plant storage rules.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) eased rules requiring tens of thousands of U.S. chemical plants to protect their stockpiles from terrorists, pleasing chemical industry lobbyists, but disappointing environmentalists and some Democratic lawmakers, who said they will beef up requirements next year. The regulations will touch a wide range of U.S. industry, including pulp and paper mills, petroleum plants, food and agriculture facilities, and manufacturing and industrial cleaning sites. DHS proposed in April a list of 344 chemicals that businesses would have to track and disclose to the department through an online reporting system. But under heavy criticism from industry, it released a less stringent version yesterday, reducing the number of targeted chemicals to about 300 and raising the reporting threshold of many chemicals of highest security concern.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/02/AR2007110201880.html)

[dyn/content/article/2007/11/02/AR2007110201880.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/02/AR2007110201880.html)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *November 5, The New York Times* – (National) **Plan for nuclear storage is slow to form.** The Energy Department has not finished plans to consolidate storage of nuclear bomb fuel and other high-risk materials now spread among numerous sites, even though the department said in 2005 that it would do so within about a year, according to a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report to be released Monday. As a result, the department is spending hundreds of millions of dollars to defend additional sites. The GAO had reported that the Energy Department was putting off making security improvements at some of the storage sites because the sites were due to be phased out. But the new report makes clear that the goal of shutting down some obsolete weapons and research centers, and simplifying the security job by centralizing “special nuclear material,” as bomb fuel is called, has yet to advance from concept to plan, let alone to finished project. The Energy Department “has completed only two of the eight implementation plans for consolidating and disposing of special nuclear material,” the new report found, and it cited problems with those two plans. A spokesman for the National Nuclear Security Administration, part of the Energy Department, did not dispute that planning was moving more slowly than anticipated but said that shipments of some radioactive materials had begun. The spokesman said the department had to acquire certification of the storage and shipping containers, institute security and safety requirements, and address legal and environmental impacts.
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/05/us/05nuke.html>
6. *November 5, The Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Preparedness drill at Xcel's Monticello nuclear plant this week.** A nuclear preparedness exercise will be conducted at Xcel Energy’s Monticello plant in Minnesota this week. The exercise starts today and runs through Wednesday. The event is to test the ability of participating agencies to respond to a nuclear emergency. The state of Minnesota, the Nuclear Management Company, Xcel Energy, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Wright and Sherburne counties will take part. Each plant must conduct an exercise every year. Officials from FEMA will evaluate the exercise.
Source: <http://wkbt.com/Global/story.asp?S=7312233>
7. *November 5, The Associated Press* – (Vermont) **Aging nuclear plant raises questions about life without it.** The Vermont Yankee nuclear plant has suffered from recent maintenance and equipment issues that have led to, amongst other things, an unscheduled temporary shut down. As a result, some people are questioning the need for the plant. Experts say that without the plant, electricity would get more expensive and consumers would turn to sources that generate more greenhouse gases, but the lights would not go out. Vermont would simply import power from the New England power grid, which currently has a surplus of electricity. Vermont Yankee, which opened in 1972, currently produces about 650 megawatts of electricity with a bit less than 300 megawatts flowing to Vermont. A megawatt can power about 1,000 homes.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/connecticut/articles/2007/11/05/aging_nuclear_plant_raises_questions_about_life_without_it/

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *November 5, Business Wire* – (National) **LaBarge awarded additional \$2.2 million contract to provide electronic components for F-16 radar system.** LaBarge, Inc. has received a \$2.2 million contract from Northrop Grumman Corp.'s Electronic Systems sector to continue to produce an electronic chassis used in the fire control radar system of the F-16 fighter aircraft. LaBarge previously announced a \$5.5 million contract in September 2006. The company began producing the wired chassis for Northrop Grumman in 2003. The Northrop Grumman AN/APG-68 fire control radar provides multiple modes, including long-range, all-aspect detection and tracking, simultaneous multiple target tracking and high-resolution ground mapping.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/071105/20071105005522.html?.v=1>

9. *November 2, Mass High Tech* – (National) **Electric Boat wins Navy submarine deal extension.** A Connecticut defense contractor has received a \$53 million bump to a previously won submarine contract with the U.S. Navy. Electric Boat Corp. landed a \$53.7 million extension to a previously awarded deal to provide engineering and design work for the research and development of submarine platforms, according to the U.S. Department of Defense. The project is expected to be completed by October 2009.

Source:

http://www.bizjournals.com/masshightech/stories/2007/10/29/daily38.html?ana=from_rss

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

10. *November 4, KY3 TV, Springfield, Missouri* – (Missouri) **New mail scam hits the Ozarks.** A new scam started circulating in Missouri involving promises of winning \$38,000. According to reports, the con artists claiming to be Enterprise Rent-A-Car send two checks, one for almost \$38,000 and a cashier's check for \$3,800. The smaller cashier's check is for the recipient to open a secured bond which is where the scammers say the larger check will be deposited. After cashing the smaller check the con artists say the bond went up and they need more money to open the account. At the same time they cancel the cashier's check the victims just cashed, who are out whatever they sent and the amount of cashier's check to the bank where they cashed it. While the names of the banks on the checks are real, the phone numbers were wrong.

Source: <http://www.ky3.com/news/local/11009846.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

11. *November 5, WCVB News Channel 5, Boston, Massachusetts* – (Massachusetts) **5 People get sick on flight.** Five crew members were taken to a local hospital Monday after complaining of flu-like symptoms shortly after landing in Boston, Massachusetts. EMS officials said the crew members have elevated carbon monoxide levels. None of the 81 passengers aboard reported feeling sick. The crew and passengers were on a different plane at Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C., when strange fumes were reported, U.S Airways said. Everyone was moved to another plane and then flew to Boston.
Source: <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/news/14512670/detail.html>
12. *November 4, The Associated Press* – (California) **Calif. looks into crash involving more than 100 vehicles.** Two people were killed and dozens more injured in a massive Saturday morning pileup in Fresno, California that involved more than 100 cars and trucks, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) said. Rescuers had to extract several people trapped in the wreckage, and paramedics transported more than three dozen patients to the hospital with injuries, said the Fresno City Fire Department spokesman. Two of the big rigs leaked 90 gallons of diesel fuel onto the freeway when their fuel tanks ruptured, but the diesel was contained. No hazardous materials were spilled, CHP officials said. The freeway's northbound lanes were shut down indefinitely and traffic backed up for miles south of the wreckage. The cause of the wreck is under investigation and may take months to determine, said a CHP officer.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-11-04-pileup_N.htm
13. *November 3, The Union Tribune* – (California) **Bomb found, detonated; I-5 closed several hours.** On Friday, bomb-arson investigators detonated a pipe bomb that was found in a backpack on the side of Interstate 5 near La Jolla Village Drive, in San Diego, California. The bomb was left on the side of the freeway Tuesday by a man, who later confessed and led investigators to the place where he placed it. A search for more explosives in his Oceanside home on Dunes Place came up empty.
Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20071103-9999-1m3pubsafe.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

14. *November 5, The Times Leader* – (Pennsylvania) **Local briefs.** Representatives from the Postal Service, U.S. Postal Inspection Service and local, county, state and federal agencies will participate in an emergency preparedness drill on November 6 at the Main Post Office and Processing Facility in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The post office customer lobby will be “evacuated” as part of the event. The staged evacuation will be done with minimal interruption to customers.
Source: http://www.timesleader.com/news/20071105_04_briefs_ART.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

15. *November 5, Farm Business Communications* – (International) **USDA tightens testing on Canadian meat.** Citing concerns over testing practices at a now defunct plant near Calgary, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced Saturday that it will increase testing for E. coli O157:H7, listeria and salmonella on imports of meat and poultry from Canada, starting this week. USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) said shipments tapped for inspection would be held until testing is complete and products are confirmed negative for those bacteria. FSIS also said Canadian meat and poultry would get "increased levels of re-inspection to confirm they are eligible to enter commerce when presented at the U.S. border." The USDA is also set to start an audit of Canada's food safety system.

Source: <http://www.country-guide.ca/East/issues/ISArticle.asp?id=75893&PC=FBC&issue=11052007>

16. *November 4, The Associated Press* – (National) **Cargill Inc. recalls tainted beef.** On Sunday, Cargill Inc. said it is recalling more than 1 million pounds of ground beef after a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) test found that it may be contaminated with E. coli bacteria. The ground beef was produced between October 8 and October 11 at Cargill Meat Solutions' plant in Wyalusing, Pennsylvania and distributed to retailers across the country, including Giant, Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Wegmans and Weis. "No illnesses have been associated with this product," the president of Cargill Regional Beef said in a statement. "We are working closely with the USDA to remove this product from the marketplace." For the complete list of recalled products, please see:

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Recall_051-2007_Release.pdf

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071104/ap_on_re_us/beef_recall;_ylt=Ap0LLCDp47YFNdR3JEH6kklG2ocA

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

17. *November 3, The Associated Press*– (National) **Bush vetoes water projects bill.** On November 2, President Bush vetoed a bill authorizing hundreds of popular water projects, even though lawmakers can count enough votes to override him. According to the White House press secretary, the president vetoed the bill because it is "fiscally irresponsible" and falls outside the scope of the mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. If he is overridden, the measure would give a green light to projects in virtually every state. However, it only authorizes the projects; the actual funding must be approved separately. The authorizations include restoring major wetlands and other coastal areas, as well as flood control and dredging projects for Louisiana; the restoration of the Florida Everglades; building seven new locks on the upper Mississippi and Illinois rivers; various projects related to hurricane mitigation in Mississippi and Louisiana; and hundreds of smaller dredging, wetlands restoration, and flood control projects across the country. The Congressional Budget Office says the bill includes

projects that, if fully funded, would cost \$11.2 billion over the next four years and \$12 billion in the decade after that. The bill also calls for increased oversight of the Corps, requiring an outside review of water construction projects.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iUytOUBTC0tBu1ZuUj8J3VJsVI7AD8SLMFS02>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

18. *November 4, The Associated Press* – (National) **Unsafe-product alerts on Web.**

According to a press-release by Consumer Reports, published in the *Courier News*, the non-profit magazine has just launched a new website, www.NotInMyCart.org.

According to Consumer reports it is meant to serve as a “one-stop resource available for information about everything from recalls and congressional action involving hazardous products and foods, offering news on the latest recalls from the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.”

Source:

http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/couriernews/business/633262,3_3_EL04_NOTI_NMYCART_S1.article

19. *November 4, Berkshire Eagle* – (Massachusetts) **Health care staff lacking.** In August 2006, a law was passed in Massachusetts making it mandatory that all residents have or purchase some type of health care insurance. Failure to do so results in increasing penalties assessed on tax returns. Now, some Massachusetts law makers are upset that the Division of Insurance has failed to fully staff a bureau meant to educate the public about the legislation. Lawmakers have earmarked \$1 million for the bureau since the law passed so they could hire staff and get information to people about accessing affordable health insurance. “The Department of Health and Human Services also has not fully staffed a health care Outreach and Education Unit required by the new law. The agency was given \$200,000 to create a health care reform education unit, but the department just began the final round of interviews of potential staffers this month.”

Source: http://www.berkshireeagle.com/ci_7366528?source=most_viewed

Government Facilities Sector

20. *November 4, Charlotte Observer* – (North Carolina) **FAA reviewing football fly-over.**

A 17-year-old high school student was apparently acting on a dare when he did a fly-over prank at a local high school football game on November 2 in North Carolina, at one point dipping below the stadium lights. School officials said that the teen pilot and two teen passengers flew the length of the field three times around 8 p.m. The plane reportedly came within feet of a flag pole. According to police the pilot, who apparently broke multiple federal aviation laws, is being investigated by the Federal Aviation Administration. As of late November 4, no charges had been filed. School officials are

also considering disciplinary actions.

Source: http://www.charlotte.com/breaking_news/story/348230.html

21. *November 3, The Associated Press* – (California) **Unknown spray sickens Calif. students.** Two students sprayed a noxious gas in the main hallway of a Lodi, California high school, sickening 43 students and sending six to the hospital. Police arrested the two students, ages 16 and 17, who told authorities they found the unmarked aerosol can while trick-or-treating on Halloween. Investigators are not sure what was in it.

Source:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5idXxY1NwMTVKuYa_1Z14KbergYXwD8SLQI5O1

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

22. *November 5, The Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **Faster heart care: How one state did it.** Within 90 minutes of arriving at a small community hospital in North Carolina, a local heart attack victim was having a blocked artery reopened at Duke University Medical Center 25 miles away. “It was like being a car in a pit stop at NASCAR,” he said. “I thought ‘I am in really good hands.’” Two years ago, he might not have been. North Carolina was a bad place to have a heart attack, scoring below national norms of fast care. Now it may be one of the best. The reason is the nation’s most ambitious statewide project to redo how serious heart attacks are handled. Paramedics, doctors and 65 hospitals put aside powerful individual interests like money and control, and focused on giving faster care. Drugs, devices and doctors do no good if they do not reach people quickly, before the heart suffers permanent damage. Heart attacks happen when arteries are blocked, crimping a critical blood supply. The first choice of treatment is angioplasty, in which a tiny balloon is pushed into the vessel and inflated to flatten the clog. However, many small hospitals lack specialized suites called catheterization labs needed for angioplasties. Instead, they sometimes give clot-dissolving drugs, which do not always work. In the North Carolina project, 55 small hospitals agreed to send appropriate patients to 10 larger ones for angioplasty, even though it meant giving up thousands of dollars of revenue. Big hospitals also had room to improve, too, said a Duke cardiologist who led the project. Statewide, “up to 40 percent who should get clot-busting drugs or angioplasty were not getting it, and when it was being given it was being given too slowly,” he said. He reported one-year results of the project Sunday at an American Heart Association meeting in Florida. They also were published online by the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Source: <http://www.emsresponder.com/online/article.jsp?siteSection=1&id=6487>

23. *November 3, RCR Wireless News* – (California) **Fires burn up wireless lines.** As wildfires raged throughout southern California in recent weeks and hundreds of thousands were evacuated from their homes, wireless networks in the area saw dramatic increases in usage as well as some damage from the blazes. The increased usage included first responders who reported using the commercial networks as a back up for their own private wireless networks, though some noted requesting help from carriers

was complicated. Public-safety officials said that their own wireless communications worked well, due in part to investments in increased capacity and coverage since the last round of serious fires several years ago. To evacuate more than 500,000 people authorities relied heavily on notification through a recently implemented reverse 911 calling system -- however, the system only included wireline numbers, so customers who only used cellular phones or Voice over Internet Protocol services could not be reached. Last week, San Diego began offering citizens the chance to register their VoIP and wireless numbers for the reverse 911 service through the Web, so they can be reached with alerts in any future emergencies. The communications system manager for the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and the San Diego/Imperial County regional communication system, said the agency's 800 MHz private mobile radio system performed well, and that first responders also relied on local wireless providers for back-up communication and administrative activity. He also noted, however, that his job would be easier if the wireless industry cooperated to provide first responders with a single point of contact to deploy wireless resources, instead of being flooded with individual calls from vendors about possible resources that were available. He also said that advance practice and coordination with some elements, such as mobile downlink command centers, would help agencies better integrate those resources into their operations during a crisis.

Source:

<http://www.rcrnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071103/SUB/71103010/1011>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology

24. *November 5, Techworld.com* – (National) **Some Apple users at risk of data loss.** A U.K.-based data-recovery organization has warned Apple Macbook users that they risk potential data loss due to a design flaw on certain hard drives. Retrodata has come across “many dozens” of failures affecting Seagate Technology LLC 2.5-in. Serial Advanced Technology Attachment drives, commonly found in laptops such as the MacBook or MacBook Pro. Apple Inc. desktops that use laptop-oriented components, such as the Mac Mini, are also at risk. “The read/write heads are detaching from the arm and plowing deep gouges into the magnetic platter,” explained Retrodata’s managing director. “The damage is mostly on the inner tracks, but some scratches are on the outer track -- Track 0 -- and once that happens, the drive is normally beyond repair.” The problem is found on the Seagate 2.5-in. SATA drives that are made in China and are loaded with firmware Version 7.01. Model numbers affected include ST96812AS and ST98823AS. Clark advised users to go to their System Profile, and under Serial ATA look for the revision number. “If it is firmware Version 7.01, then you have to panic,” he warned.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9045520&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

25. *November 5, Computerworld* – (California; National) **In emergencies, can cell phone network overload be prevented?** Within minutes of Tuesday's 5.6 magnitude earthquake that hit the San Francisco Bay Area, the number of cell phone calls on the Verizon Wireless network skyrocketed. Twenty minutes after the 8:04 p.m. quake, instead of the normal 300,000 calls made between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. in one area of Santa Clara County, the call volume soared to 2.3 million. Many of those calls were probably made by people trying to check on friends or relatives who lived in the vicinity of the temblor. And many of those calls never got through because, as often happens after a major emergency, the huge number of cell phone calls overwhelmed systems that were not built to handle such high demand. Instead of reaching their destinations, the calls received fast busy signals or messages saying that all circuits were busy. The incident raises the question: Is this acceptable service? Or can the system be fixed so that every call can go through at anytime, no matter how many calls are being made? It could be done, according to wireless carriers, but it would be expensive, and would lead to an overbuilt network that is needed only a few times each year. "You could build, at least theoretically, a network that has enough capacity for everyone in the United States to get on the phone at one time," said a Verizon spokesman, "but [the required switching facilities] would be the size of the Empire State Building." Instead, wireless carriers build specific cell site buildings that can handle the capacity that's needed in each individual area, and that capacity can be increased as needed, he said. One telecom analyst noted that "the wireless system is not advertised as the system of last resort. Nobody ever made the claim that this system will work always." Emergency first responders have cell phones that use codes to automatically route their calls to the highest priority to ensure they get through, he said. "Those safeguards are in place," he said. As an alternative, callers should try sending short text messages, which use less capacity on the networks because they pass through in bits and bytes instead of requiring a dedicated circuit as a true phone call does.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9045438&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

26. *November 5, Telegraph Herald* – (Iowa) **Sheriffs call for cell towers.** Trying to make a phone call in an area without cell phone service can be frustrating enough, but when the call is to report a car crash, fire or some other emergency, the results could be deadly. That is why the Iowa State Sheriffs and Deputies Association is speaking out about its

opposition to the Federal Communications Commission putting a cap on a fund that helps provide cell towers in rural locations. The Universal Service Fund was created by Congress in 1996 as part of an overhaul of the nation's communications laws designed to create competition and make service available to all consumers, including those in low-income and rural areas. The FCC indicated recently that it is considering putting a cap on the fund, which could lead to cell service "dead spots." Dubuque County's sheriff said sometimes rural cell phone service can be a matter of life and death, especially because many people are now relying on their cell phones as their only telephone service and means of calling 911. The number of cell phone towers is also crucial for being able to identify a caller's location. At least three towers are needed to triangulate the position of a caller in distress, a prospect that can be especially difficult in rural and hilly areas.

Source: <http://www.thonline.com/article.cfm?id=179278>

27. *November 3, RCR Wireless News* – (California) **Fires burn up wireless lines.** As wildfires raged throughout southern California in recent weeks and hundreds of thousands were evacuated from their homes, wireless networks in the area saw dramatic increases in usage, as well as some damage from the blazes. All of the national carriers saw vastly increased call volume, and each lost at least a few cell phone towers temporarily, mostly due either to burned fiber backhaul connections or loss of power. A Verizon Wireless spokesman credited clearing of brush around cell sites as one factor that helped the carrier lose none of its physical towers. AT&T Inc. sustained substantial damage to its wireline network and as of last week had 1,000 technicians working to restore service, according to a spokesman. The increased usage included first responders who reported using the commercial networks as a back up for their own private wireless networks, though some noted requesting help from carriers was complicated. Public-safety officials said that their own wireless communications worked well, due in part to investments in increased capacity and coverage since the last round of serious fires several years ago. At one point during the fires, more than 500,000 people were evacuated from their homes. Authorities relied heavily on notification through a recently implemented reverse 911 calling system -- however, the system only included wireline numbers, so customers who only used cellular phones or Voice over Internet Protocol services could not be reached. Last week, San Diego began offering citizens the chance to register their VoIP and wireless numbers for the reverse 911 service through the Web, so they can be reached with alerts in any future emergencies. The communications system manager for the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and the San Diego/Imperial County regional communication system, said the agency's 800 MHz private mobile radio system performed well, and that first responders also relied on local wireless providers for back-up communication and administrative activity.

Source:

<http://www.rcrnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071103/SUB/71103010/1011>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

28. *November 4, The Union-Tribune* – (California) **Despite vast damage, wildfires spare**

most county businesses. Despite the destruction of 369,000 acres of land and nearly 1,700 homes, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection counted only two commercial property losses in the Witch Creek, Harris, Poomacha and Rice Canyon fires. Commercial losses identified by *The San Diego Union-Tribune* include a landmark country store near San Pasqual, a business office and equipment storage building at Pala Mesa Resort, and the “mushroom farm” buildings that faced Harrah’s Rincon Casino, which also lost a storage facility. Additionally, despite substantial agricultural losses, the brush fires that burned through backcountry communities missed feed stores, markets, ranches and other rural businesses.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/business/20071104-9999-1b4bizfire.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

29. *November 4, The San Jose Mercury News* – (California) **Cities in valley respond to risk of pesticides in parklands.** A recent review of the public parks in Los Altos, California and surrounding communities in the Silicon Valley have shown the importance of testing soil for long-lasting, legacy pesticides like lead, arsenic, and DDT. These pesticides were popular when the valley was home to more than 120,000 acres of orchards and farms. Santa Clara County has more cleanup sites involving old orchard pesticides than any other county in the state, according to state records. Unlike some states, California does little exploratory soil testing, leaving local agencies to deal with the problem on their own. A state assemblyman from Los Altos, has already asked state environmental officials to reexamine how they handle legacy pesticides. A spokeswoman for the state Department of Toxic Substances Control said her agency is preparing a response.

Source: http://origin.mercurynews.com/peninsula/ci_7366806

30. *November 4, The Associated Press* – (Montana) **Shrinking glaciers affect park’s wildlife.** A research ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, has been monitoring the Glacier National Park’s glaciers for years, studying the many implications of retreating ice and snow. The last official count in 1998 pegged the number of glaciers here at 27, down from 150 a century ago. Today, a soon to be released new inventory is likely to show far fewer than the 27 counted just a decade ago. Higher temperatures and longer growing seasons also mean more evapotranspiration, and more new vegetation drinking up underground reservoirs. Trees, which require more water, now grow where only grasses could make a living 25 years ago. In addition to plants being affected, the fish and amphibians are as well. According to the ecologist, check back in 100 years, or even 20, “and there will be no more glaciers here, which means no more summer reservoir of water. The effects of that will be felt broadly throughout our society.”

Source: <http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2007/11/04/news/state/54-glaciers.txt>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

31. *November 4, Sierra Sun* – (California) **A dam in distress.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has categorized Martis Creek Dam in California as extremely high risk due to Martis Valley's coarse glacial deposits of sand, gravel, and boulders, which have allowed water to seep under the dam. The worst-case scenario would be if the seepage increased and exceeded the dam's out-flow, at which point the dam could fail from the bottom up, said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Dam Safety Assurance Program. Martis is one of just six dams in the country identified as the nation's riskiest. The ranking comes not only from the probability of failure, but also the consequences downstream, which in this case is the flooding of the Truckee River Canyon and a large part of Reno, Nevada.

Source: <http://www.nevadaappeal.com/article/SS/20071104/NEWS/71104005>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:	Send mail to NICCRports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-5389
Subscription and Distribution Information:	Send mail to NICCRports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-5389 for more information.

Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.